

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TUNIS 00802 041553Z

65

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAM-01 ACDA-05 IO-11 EUR-12 OMB-01 /093 W

----- 046469

R 041415Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1581

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TUNIS 0802

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AG, MO, SS, TS

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN DIPLOMACY RE WESTERN SAHARA

REF: TUNIS 0654

1. GOT MINISTER OF INTERIOR TAHAR BELKHODJA, WHO WENT TO ALGIERS FOR DISCUSSION WITH BOUMEDIENE JANUARY 30-31, RETURNED TO TUNIS FEBRUARY 3 FROM SIMILAR MISSION IN RABAT. BELKHODJA TOLD PRESS AT AIRPORT ON HIS ARRIVAL THAT PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S "SERIOUS AND REALISTIC" RECOMMENDATIONS HAD ACHIEVED TWO CONCRETE RESULTS: (A) ENDING A SITUATION THAT COULD HAVE DEGENERATED MORE AND BECOME VERY DANGEROUS FOR ENTIRE REGION AND (B) ENCOURAGING REFLECTION ON A POLITICAL SOLUTION RESPECTING THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF EACH PARTY. BELKHODJA WENT DIRECTLY FROM AIRPORT TO PRESIDENTIAL PALACE FOR CONFERENCE WITH BOURGUIBA, PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA, AND ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER MONGI KOOLI. THERE WAS NO USEFUL STATEMENT AFTER THE MEETING.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TUNIS 00802 041553Z

2. COMMENT: OBSERVERS IN TUNIS, CLAIMING EQUALLY GOOD

ACCESS TO THE TRUTH, ARE CIRCULATING CONFLICTING STORIES  
ON BELKHODJA'S MISSIONS. ONE VERSION HAS IT THAT  
BOUMEDIENE WAS ADAMANT AND THAT BELKHODJA GOT NOTHING IN  
ALGIERS EXCEPT INSULTS THAT GOT SHOULD PRETEND TO MEDIATE  
WHILE OPENLY SIDING WITH MOROCCO. OTHERS SAY BOUMEDIENE  
SOFTENED SOMEWHAT TOWARD TUNISIA. IN RABAT BELKHODJA  
IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROSTILY, KING HASSAN  
COMPLAINING THAT TUNISIAN RAN TO PAY COURT TO BOUMEDIENE  
AS SOON AS THEY SAW HE WAS CROSS AT THEM. IN ANY EVENT,  
WHILE BELKHODJA'S MISSIONS ARE DESCRIBED HERE IN TERMS OF  
BOURGUIBA AS PEACEMAKER, TUNISIA CAN HAVE HAD LITTLE  
INFLUENCE ON COURSE OF ALGERIAN/MOROCCAN HOSTILITIES.  
BELKHODJA'S REAL OBJECT MUST HAVE BEEN TO EXPLORE MEANS  
FOR MITIGATING ALGERIAN HOSTILITY TOWARD TUNISIA ITSELF.  
IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHAT SUCCESS HE HAS HAD.  
SEELYE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARBITRATION, DISPUTES, MINISTERIAL VISITS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976TUNIS00802  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760042-1104  
**From:** TUNIS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760281/aaaactnk.tel  
**Line Count:** 77  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 TUNIS 654  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <03 JUN 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TUNISIAN DIPLOMACY RE WESTERN SAHARA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, AG, MO, SS, TS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006